

Appl. No. 09/886,730
Atty. Docket No. 8594
Amdt. dated September 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 27, 2003
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A non-apertured elastic laminate web comprising:

- a) a first web;
- b) a second web joined to said first web in a face to face relationship at a plurality of discrete bond sites having an aspect ratio of at least 2, the first and second webs forming an interior region therebetween;
- c) an elastic material being disposed between at least a portion of said first and second webs; and
- d) said elastic material being apertured in regions coincident said bond sites, such that said first and second webs are joined through said apertures.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The laminate web of Claim 1, wherein said laminate is joined by bonds in the absence of adhesive.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The laminate web of Claim 1, wherein said bond sites are discrete thermal bonds having an aspect ratio of at least 3:1.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The laminate web of Claim 1, wherein said bond sites are discrete thermal bonds having an aspect ratio of at least 10:1.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The laminate web of Claim 1, wherein said first or second web comprises a nonwoven.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A laminate web having a plurality of apertures, said laminate web comprising:

- a) first and second extensible webs being joined at a plurality of discrete bond sites having an aspect ratio of greater than about 3;
- b) an elastic material disposed between said first and second nonwoven webs; and
- c) the first and second extensible webs being in fluid communication via the apertures.

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Claim 7 (original): The laminate web of Claim 6, wherein said laminate is joined by bonds in the absence of adhesive.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): The laminate web of Claim 6, wherein said bond sites are discrete thermal bonds having an aspect ratio of at least about 10. ~~10:1~~

Claim 10 (original): The laminate web of Claim 6, wherein said first or second extensible web comprises a nonwoven.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A disposable absorbent article comprising an elastic laminate web having a plurality of apertures, said elastic laminate web comprising:

- a) a first web;
- b) a second web joined to said first web in a face to face relationship at a plurality of discrete bond sites having an aspect ratio of at least [[2]] about 3, the first and second webs forming an interior region therebetween;
- c) an elastic material being disposed between at least a portion of said first and second webs; and
- d) said elastic material being apertured in regions coincident said bond sites, such that said first and second webs are joined through said apertures.

Claim 12 (original): The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11, wherein said first or second extensible web comprises a nonwoven.

Claim 13 (original): The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11, wherein said elastic laminate web further comprises absorbent gelling material.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An article of apparel comprising an elastic laminate web having a plurality of apertures, said article comprising:

- a) a first web;

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- b) a second web joined to said first web in a face to face relationship at a plurality of discrete bond sites having an aspect ratio of at least [[2]] about 3, the first and second webs forming an interior region therebetween;
- c) an elastic material being disposed between at least a portion of said first and second webs; and
- d) said elastic material being apertured in regions coincident said bond sites, such that said first and second webs are joined through said apertures.

Claim 15 (original): The article of apparel of Claim 14, wherein said first or second extensible web comprises a nonwoven.

Amended
Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method for forming an elastic laminate web the steps of:

- (a) providing first and second web materials comprising thermoplastic material;
- (b) providing at least one third elastomeric web material;
- (c) providing a thermal point bonder having a plurality of protuberances;
- (d) guiding said third elastomeric web material in a stretched condition between at least a portion of said first and second web materials in a face-to-face layered relationship to said thermal point bonder;
- (e) displacing said third elastomeric web material with said protuberances at discrete, spaced apart locations to form apertures in said third material; and
- (f) thermally point bonding said first and second outer web materials to form bond sites at discrete, spaced apart locations coincident with said protuberances, thereby forming a bonded laminate.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 16, wherein said third web material is provided in an unapertured condition.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 16, wherein said third web material is involved in said thermal point bonding about a perimeter of a said bond sites.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A method for forming an apertured elastomeric laminate web comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing first and second web materials comprising thermoplastic material;
- (b) providing at least one third elastomeric web material;

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- (c) providing a thermal point bonder having a plurality of protuberances;
- (d) guiding said third elastomeric web material in a stretched condition between at least a portion of said first and second web materials in a face-to-face layered relationship to said thermal point bonder;
- (e) displacing said third elastomeric web material with said protuberances at discrete, spaced apart locations to form apertures in said third material;
- (f) thermally point bonding said first and second outer web materials to form bond sites at discrete, spaced apart locations coincident with said protuberances, thereby forming a bonded laminate; and
- (g) stretching said bonded laminate to form apertures in the elastomeric laminate web.

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Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein said first and second web materials comprise nonwoven fibers.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein said stretching means comprises incremental stretching.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein said protuberances of said thermal point bonder have an aspect ratio of between about 3 and 20.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein said protuberances of said thermal point bonder have an aspect ratio of 10.

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Claim 24 (new): The laminate web of Claim 6 wherein said bond site has a width of less than about 0.020 inches.

Claim 25 (new): The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11 wherein said bond site has a width of less than about 0.020 inches.

Claim 26 (new): The article of apparel of Claim 14 wherein said bond site has a width of less than about 0.020 inches.